

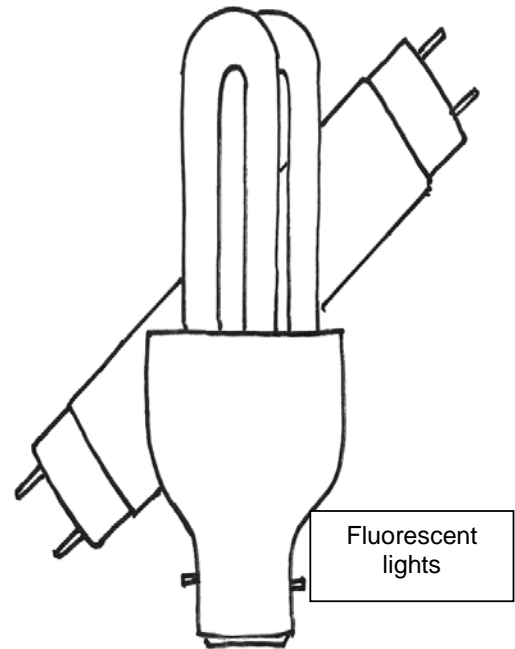
Switches off lights when absent for 45 minutes or more

To switch or not to switch....

Some people believe turning lights on and off uses more energy than leaving them on, and shortens the life of the light tube. But with modern fluorescent lights this is no longer the case. The process of ignition takes 300 times the operational current, for a period of 0.3ms (0.0003 seconds). That means that switching your light ON takes as much power as the tube consumes in 0.09 of a second of operation. So if you leave the room for longer than 0.09 seconds, turning your light OFF *will* save energy.

As for the life of the tube, switching will reduce the actual life of the tube, but switching off can also increase its operational life: that is the number of operational days before replacement is required. It has been calculated that to maximize the operational life of the tube, lights should be turned off if not used for 45 minutes or more.

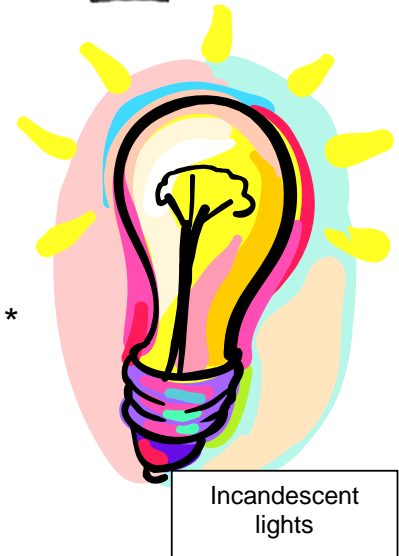
So if you leave the office for more than 45 minutes, turning your lights off will increase the number of days the tube will operate before needing replacement. As most electricity in Australia is generated by coal-fired power stations which produce carbon dioxide, switching off lights will also reduce greenhouse gas emissions.



What you can do

Switch off your fluorescent lights when absent for 45 minutes or more

Switch off your incandescent light when not in use*



Did you know?

Leaving lights on for an extra hour each day over the course of a week costs the university about \$2000 and releases 20 tonnes of greenhouse gases into our atmosphere. This is equivalent to what a car would emit traveling 17,000 kilometers (four times the distance between Sydney and Perth)!!!!**

* Fuji Xerox down to earth office care (1997)

**Assuming 40,000 fluorescent light fittings powered at 100 watts each, and electricity costs \$0.10 per kWh. Distance equivalencies determined using NSW Road Traffic Authority distance calculator.